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Monsoon Report - 4

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), 2014 southwest monsoonal rainfall during June 1-25 was 40 percent below normal. As a result, *kharif* (fall and early harvested) crop planting progress has been slower than usual, particularly in the regions which are rainfed. The optimal window of opportunity for planting most *kharif* (fall and early harvested) crops such as rice, coarse grains, soybeans, cotton, peanuts and pulses extends through about mid-July.

General Information:

Monsoon progress

According to [IMD's press release](#) for the week of June 23, the advance of the southwest monsoon over north, north-central, west-central, and northwestern India has stalled for over a week. However, India's eastern regions, the sub-Himalayan areas of West Bengal, and the northeastern states reported heavy rainfall (Figure 1). According to the IMD, the cumulative rainfall from June 1 to June 25 was 40 percent below India's long-period average (LPA) of 74.4 mm. Of the total 36 meteorological sub-divisions in India, 29 sub-divisions received below-normal rainfall while remaining received normal rains (Figure 2). IMDs weather outlook from June 26 through July 02 indicates possibility of widespread to fairly-widespread rainfall across the northeastern states, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, coastal Karnataka, and Kerala. Remaining parts of India are expected to receive scattered and/or isolated rainfall while eastern Madhya Pradesh, Marathwada (eastern Maharashtra) and Vidarbha (northeastern Maharashtra) regions are likely to remain dry through at least July 2.

Water Storage Across Major Reservoirs

According to the latest data (as of June 19) from the Ministry of Agriculture, the water level across 85 major reservoirs was 37.68 billion cubic meters (bcm), a higher level than the 36.48 bcm from the corresponding date in 2013, and the average of 26.58 bcm of (average storage of the last 10 years). The current year's storage is 103 percent of last year's and 142 percent of the normal average (the Central Water Commission monitors 85 major reservoirs in the country which have a total live capacity of 154.88 billion cubic meters (bcm) at full reservoir level).

Kharif planting makes a slow start

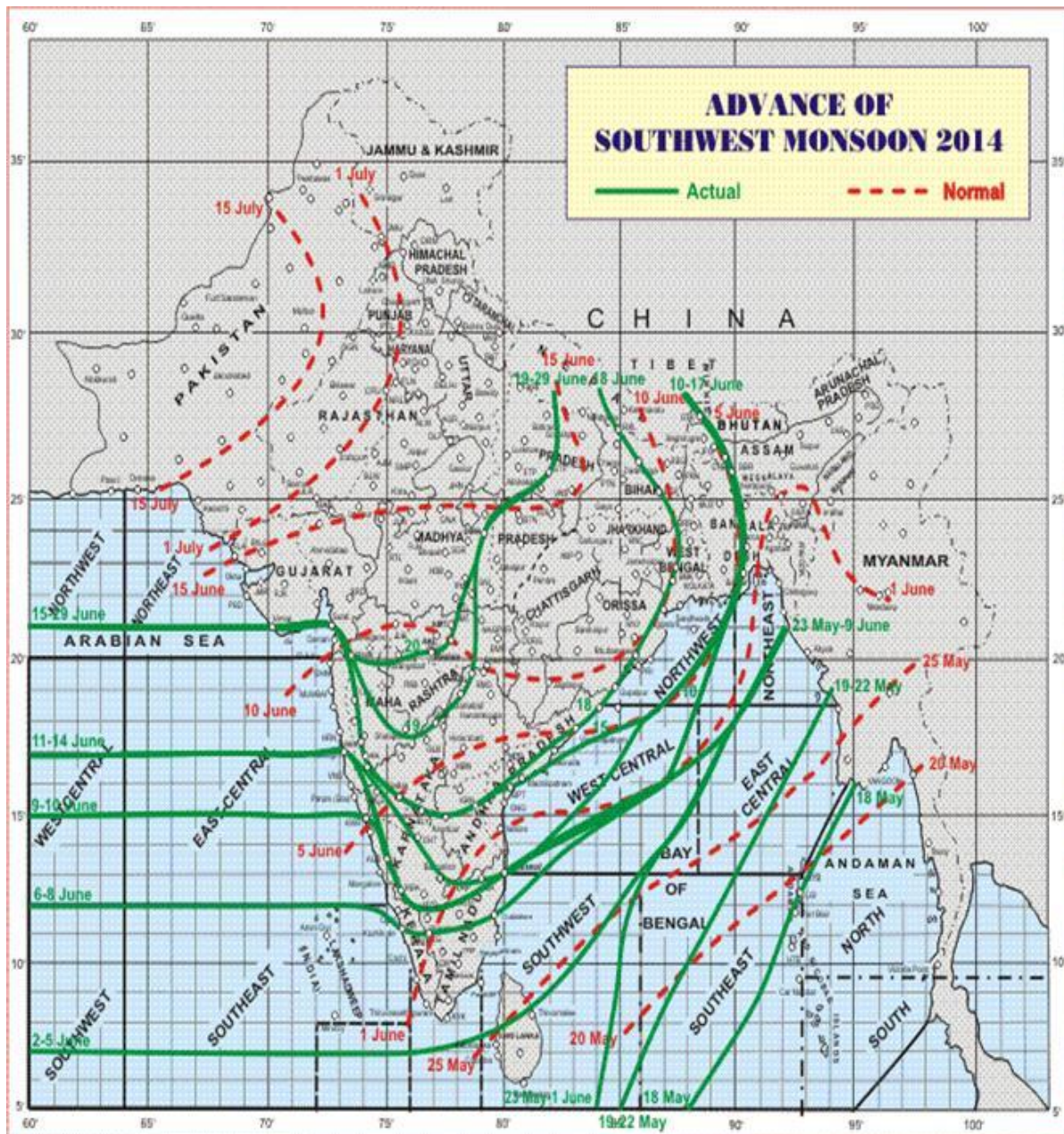
Delays in the southwest monsoon have slowed down the planting progress for *kharif* crops. Preliminary reports indicate that this year's *kharif* season planting is 12.4 million hectares down 6.7 million hectares from the corresponding period in 2013. Planted area has declined mostly in places that are rain fed. A mixed forecast for scattered to heavy rains across Kerala, coastal Karnataka, eastern and northeastern states should facilitate nursery sowing and transplanting of rice, while in remaining regions monsoonal showers are late. The window of opportunity for planting most *kharif* crops extends through about the third week of July. Rains in July and August are critical for crop development. Excessive rains in a few places could delay planting of *kharif* crops.

Table 1. India: Kharif Planting Progress as on June 27, 2014, In Million Hectares

Crop	Area planted in 2014	Area planted in 2013
Rice	2.20	3.91
Pulses	0.43	1.05
Coarse cereals	1.95	2.93
Sugarcane	4.40	4.74
Oilseeds	0.48	0.90
Cotton	2.91	5.57
Total	12.37	19.10

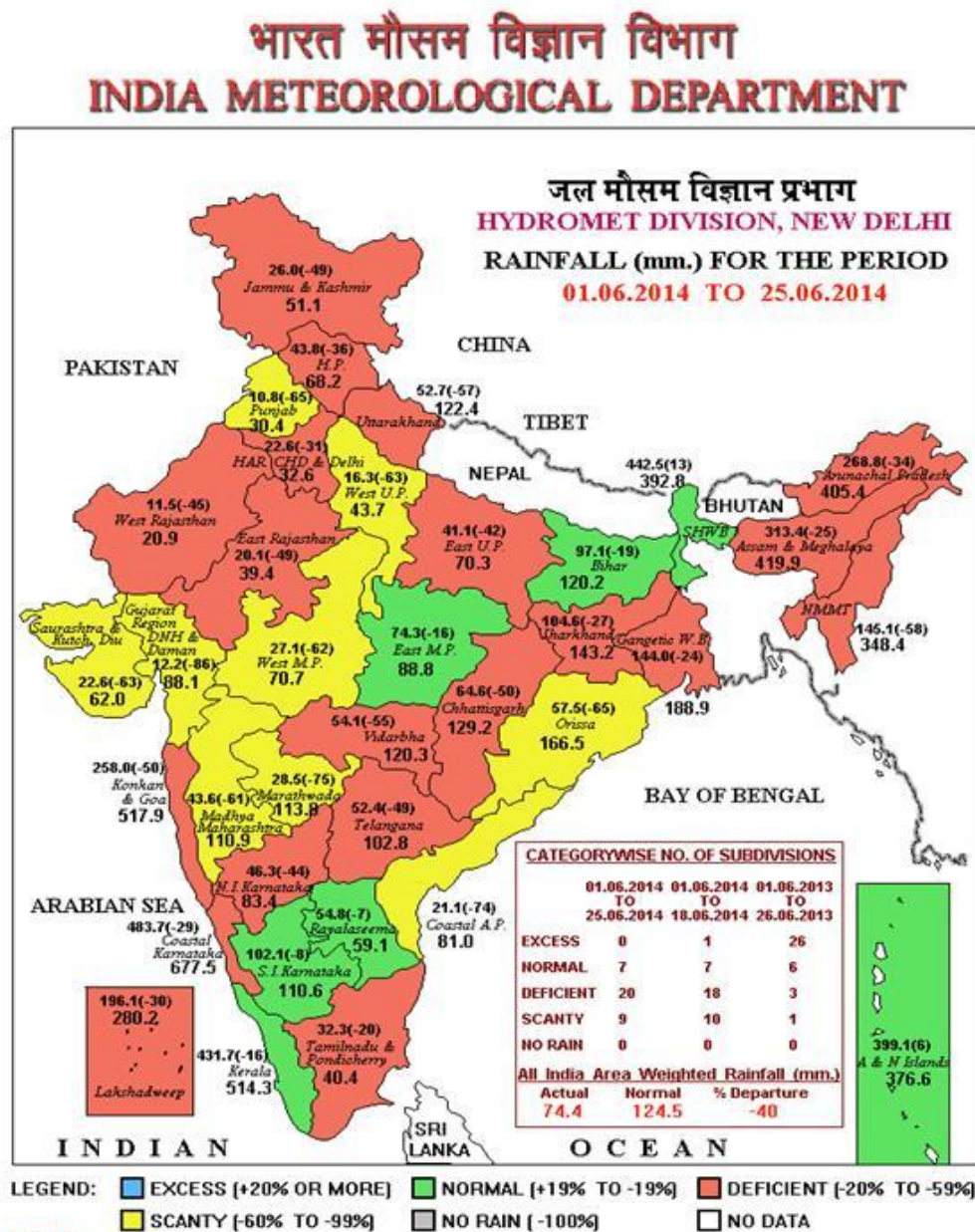
Source: [PIB press release](#)

Figure 1. India: Progress of Monsoon 2014



Source: Indian Meteorological Department

Figure 2. India: Rainfall during the period starting June 1 to June 25, 2014



Source: Indian Meteorological Department